

The Lord who provides for me (Jehovah Jireh)

Message 6: [You are my anchor series](#).

D E Wasake, a servant of Jesus

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Introduction: how the message came to me

On 10 June 2023 as my wife Brenda and I prayed and worshiped to the song “Jireh”, by Elevation Worship and Maverick City Music, I received from the Lord the inspiration for this message. #

You might have heard of the word “Jehovah Jireh” which means “The Lord will Provide.” You might even know where it comes from, being the famous story of when Abraham was tested to sacrifice his son Isaac BUT the Lord of hosts wanted me to show you the connection between Abraham’s journey of faith and that of our Lord Jesus when he was agonising in the garden of Gethsemane.

There are actually parallels between the two stories that I had never known, until the Lord showed them to me!

About me and these series

When I started hearing the Lord, He said: *“Whom shall I send? and who will go for us?” And I said “Here am I, send me!” (See Isaiah 6: 8).* Thus, he gave me his oracles. I was to preach a series of 12 messages called “You are my anchor” and, I am to show you the heart of the Lord as a King who loves his people very much.

Anchor verse

“Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.””
Genesis 22:13-14 NIV

It is the word “The Lord Will Provide” when read in the ancient Hebrew language that is translated as “Jehovah Jireh” and hence that is the origin of the word, but to understand why it is such an important revelation, it is critical to first understand Abraham’s journey of faith AND then we can see the parallels with the Lord Jesus’ own journey to finding peace after wrestling in the garden of Gethsemane.

Abraham's journey of faith (Genesis 22: 1-14)

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

² Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

⁸ Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram^[a] caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

Jesus' journey of faith (Matthew 26: 36-46)

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. ⁴¹ "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Here are parallels in the journey of faith of Abraham and Jesus

1. Both knew the final outcome.

Ultimately it was a journey of faith for Abraham because Abraham knew Isaac would be resurrected even if he killed him because God had sworn with an oath - and God cannot lie. He gave assurance to Abraham previous to the test he set for him. The Bible shows this:

"God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her." Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!" Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him." Genesis 17:15-19 NIV

Like Abraham, Jesus also knew that he would be resurrected, even if he died for God had made it known to him, first through his ancestor David hundreds of years before:

"Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay." Psalms 16:9-10 NIV

It's because he knew God cannot lie that he so confidently predicted his own death to his disciples:

"When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life." And the disciples were filled with grief." Matthew 17:22-23 NIV

It is faith in God's character that gives us the confidence that God will do what he promised, so in your own journey of making God your anchor, you have to know that God cannot lie when he makes a promise, this is the firm hope in which we place our entire weight – our faith.

2. Even in faith - there was agony

Even if Jesus knew so confidently that he would die and be raised again, the scriptures still record his agony, thus:

"Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Matthew 26:38-39 NIV

Even while maintaining faith in God – for Jesus always pleased God and it is impossible to please God without faith, we still know that Jesus agonised – while he sought to understand the full will of God for him, this is likely what was causing his sorrow.

Likewise, even if the scriptures don't record what Abraham was thinking, we expect from Jesus' example, which is a parallel of Abraham that Abraham must have agonised internally to understand why God would kill and later resurrect his heir of promise, Isaac. This must have been the internal agony he faced before he lay Isaac on the altar to sacrifice him to his Lord – whose will he submitted to 100%.

What we can therefore learn is that even if we will eventually overcome, we will still walk through the valley of the shadow of death and it might be terrifying and as such we must know about it, and remember to call on God to help us through it, so that we will endure and pass the test for often there is a time period to complete the test.

3. There is a time period in the process of the test

In the story of Abraham and Jesus, we see other parallels during the period of the test. For example:

- Abraham's journey was a 3-day journey to the mountain of Moriah, Jesus was to die and then be resurrected after 3 days. Additionally, we know that Jesus entered Jerusalem on a Palm Sunday and was in the Garden on Thursday, you could liken this period to a 3 day period in the process of the test.
- Abraham used a donkey part of the way, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.
- Abraham had 2 servants initially with him but later they stayed behind and he alone went further up with Isaac. Jesus likewise had the 12 disciples but he left them behind and went further on with the 3 disciples, before leaving to go slightly further on to the ultimate test on his own.
- Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac on a mountain - up on a high place, Jesus was later killed on Golgotha, a hill.

In these other parallels, we can see that in the time period of our test – in the story, about 3 days, God often sends help – the servants, the disciples and the donkeys. This help helps us carry the load or the burden of fulfilling the test, but we can see that at the end, we often go through the test on our own.

4. The final peace that comes from trusting God 100%

When Abraham was agonizing in his heart, he was likely praying that:

"El Shaddai, if possible, let my son not be killed but let your will be done."

When Abraham however FINALLY understood with 100% certainty that his son of promise would die he reasoned in his heart that God was also 100% capable of fulfilling his promise – for God cannot lie and so that's how he must have reasoned in his heart that his son would be resurrected. Because he was 100% sure that his son would be brought back to life by God, he was 100% convinced to carry out the sacrifice and thus how he also knew that God himself would somehow provide his own sacrifice so that Isaac would live again.

Likewise, after Jesus agonised, he came to **100** peace knowing he would be raised from the dead, because he knew the story of Abraham and Isaac and thus like Isaac, who never uttered a word while he was being laid on the altar, likewise Jesus, like a lamb led to the slaughter - he said no word for he knew what would happen – God himself would provide what was needed.

Conclusion

We started dealing with the promises of God as an anchor for your soul in Part 5 of these series and we showed there that God cannot lie. This message in many ways is a continuation of the teaching by the Spirit so to appreciate the story of Abraham, go to that previous message.

To be able to truly say God is your provider, you have got to know God's character and the promises he has made to you, such that during your test when you go through the valley of death – you are 100% convinced that you will come out safe on the other side 100%, certain that God who cannot lie will provide his own sacrifice.

When Abraham passed his test, he said "Jehovah Jireh," God will provide.

When Jesus completed his test, he said: "It is finished." We can see he was showing that the work of God of providing the ultimate ram, the sacrifice which was foreshadowed by Abraham was ultimately finished by Jesus and thus it was finished by Jehovah who provided the final lamb.

Many of us use the word "Jehovah Jireh" to mean God will provide for our needs - our food, our clothing, etc. correct but the word Jehovah Jireh could in light of this message's revelation from God be reinterpreted to mean God provides a solution for our ultimate need - salvation from sin and destruction, and so every time you think of this word, think of God, the King who loves his people so much, he provided an ultimate sacrifice, himself through providing his son, Jesus – who has a message he wants me to give you.

The Message Jesus wants me to pass on to you

When we were without an anchor, when we were walking in death's shadow, without hope, God demonstrated his love for us – he provided for us the ultimate sacrifice of his son Jesus.

Jesus came to this earth as a human being like us. He however lived a perfect and holy life, doing everything in accordance with God's will for him.

He was however killed by his enemies – not long after he agonised in the Garden of Gethsemane. His enemies did not know that this death however was in line with God's 100% promise –this Jesus would be resurrected and sure enough, after being dead for 3 days, he rose again by the power of the Spirit and he went up to heaven, where he is now seated at God's right-hand side, having successfully completed his task. While we wait for him to come back, as he promised, he has however given those who believe him, the gift of his Holy Spirit – as a deposit and a guarantee that he will come again and take us to himself. This is the hope we hold on to – like an anchor.

Do you believe this? If you believe this and want to make the Lord your anchor, then pray this prayer to become a Christian:

"God of heaven, I confess that I am a sinner and have been one since birth, but I have heard that you can make me new, and you sent your son Jesus to die for me. He rose again and it is he who can give me his Holy Spirit. Please forgive me and welcome me into your Kingdom, teach me how to follow you. In Jesus' name, Amen"

Lord Jesus, come, Maranatha!